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Tactical Manual of the Red Army

DECREE

People's Commissariat of Defense

9 November 1942 No 347 Moscow

1. The present, 1942 Infantry Tactical Manual of the Red Army is to be ratified and put into effect. Part 1 (enlisted man, section, platoon, company). Part 2 (battalion, regiment).

2. The present Manual must be thoroughly studied by the entire Commanding, Commissioned and Noncommissioned Personnel and all the enlisted men of the Red Army.

3. The Commanding, Commissioned and Noncommissioned Personnel must be guided by this Manual.

4. Every directive of this Manual must be regulated according to situation.

5. The Red Army Infantry Manual of 1938 (BUP-38) and the 1937 Infantry Manual of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army Part 3 are being repealed as obsolete and obviously wrong in number of points.

People's Commissar of Defense, I. Stalin

Introduction

The 1st and 2nd parts of the Infantry Tactical Manual carry directives for tactical employment of enlisted men and Infantry units (section, platoon, company, battalion), up to a Rifle Regiment inclusive, in conformity with the regulations regarding Rifle units of the Red Army and experience acquired during the Great Patriotic War.

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troops and the entire fire power to participate simultaneously in the battle from its beginning to the end.

Reserves are created for repulsion of sudden attacks especially on flanks and at limiting points, support of acting troops, and for development and consolidation of achieved successes. The strength and organization of reserves depend on the assigned mission, plan of the forthcoming operation, and the terrain occupied by the unit in a combat formation.

The division into "main attack" and "holding" forces maintained by the old Manual used to force inaction on the so-called "holding" force.

The present Tactical Manual abolishes the division of forces into "main attack" and "holding". It insists on concentration of main forces, weapons, and effort on the direction of main attack. Minor forces act on the secondary direction.

2. The old Manual placed commanders, especially those of small units (sections, companies), in front of their units. In some cases they led troops into attack. This method entailed unnecessary losses in commanders and frequently caused disorganisation of combat formations.

Obviously this part of the old Manual does not correspond to the interests of our Army. It underrates the part played by commanders, fails to realize that they are the central figures in combat formations, that safeguarding of commanders is a prerequisite of success while losing them diminishes chances for victory.

The present Tactical Manual places the commanders of sections into waves. The commanders of platoons, companies, and battalions stay behind the combat formations at the posts from which they can observe their own combat formations and the enemy.

It is only in exceptional cases that the Manual permits a commander of a platoon, company, or battalion to place himself in front of his unit and lead his troops into battle.

The place of a commander is on the comander's or observation post whence he surveys the battlefield and actions of his unit even if it were only on the direction of the main attack.

3. Our old manuals failed to take into account the importance of rifle volley fire. This drawback was the reason why there actually has been very little rifle fire and most of it was desultory.

The Tactical Manual of 1942 restores the use of volley fire for rifle sections, platoons, and sometimes companies.

4. The present Manual analyzes actions of individual soldier, small units of submachine gunners, automatic rifle men as well as subdivisions of companies, battalions, mortar and 76 mm gun regiments.

5. The present Manual regards operations conducted by the Infantry as those of combined arms and services with a wide participation of various combat technique: all types of artillery, tanks, and aircraft. They require precision and well organized coordination of all arms and services.

Commanding personnel of the Infantry must always bear in mind the absolute necessity of uninterrupted coordination during combat of all units participating in it. It is being urged to master the new organization methods outlined in the Manual.

6. Offensive Combat is the basic type of a military operation. Defensive operations, however, are regarded by the present Manual as a normal part of warfare, modern warfare.

The Manual discusses the most frequent cases of offensive operations in various situations. While not exhausting all the multiform operations of combat, it offers to commanders points which will help them to find the right way in solving problems regarding offensive operations. This concerns cases which are not foreseen by the Manual.

Taking into account the concrete situations which arose in the course of the Great Patriotic War, the Manual regards the frontal thrust with the aim of a break through as the most typical offensive operation when it starts from a sector immediately adjacent to an enemy occupied area.

The Manual introduces new conceptions: Artillery offensive and Air Offensive. They are undertaken for the purpose of uninterrupted support of the Infantry by massed artillery fire, mortars, and aircraft throughout the offensive.

7. Modern military operations are predominantly of manoeuvring character. This requires from commanders a high capacity for regrouping of troops before operations and throughout battle, for conducting turning movement, encircling, capturing prisoners, destroying enemy groupings.

The leading idea of battle for annihilation of the encircled enemy consists in successive splitting of their units for the purpose of condensation of small encircled groups into small spaces and annihilating them by cross machine gun and mortar fire.

8. Defense must be stubborn and active. It must be able to withstand mass attacks by tanks supported by a powerful artillery fire and attacks from the air. Defense must have antitank, antiartillery, antiaircraft capacities. It must be deep.

Fortification measures must secure longevity and stability for defensive operations, every inhabited locality and even individual

buildings must be turned into solid strong points, genuine forts with all-around defense assuring longevity even in case xxxx they are encircled by the enemy. Unit commanders organize and direct construction of protective works and are fully responsible for them.

While this type of defense brings about the defeat of the enemy, it is only after development of a resolute offensive that they can be totally crushed.

9. Retreat is permissible in exceptional cases. Withdrawal of units may be necessary in view of superior forces of the enemy.

Retreat must be orderly and must proceed according to a plan. It must be combined with battles carried out by rearguards. It must never turn into a flight which would do harm to withdrawing forces.

Retreat must be a temporary measure which permits the forces to assemble and fortify themselves in order to pass to the offensive.

Retreat cannot start without order of the superior commander no matter what the situation may be not even if full encirclement was threatening.

10. The Tactical Manual of 1942 insists on special measures for support of flanks and limiting points. It demands uninterrupted control making sure that these measures are taken.

11. Modern methods of combat may necessitate fighting in the conditions of encirclement of the Infantry.

The Infantry must not fear encirclement. It must be able to come out of it in an organized fashion.

Once Infantry units are encircled, their commanders must organize a solid all-around defense. Measures must be taken against any enemy attempt to split our forces into small groups.

Getting out of encirclement is done at the order of the superior commander. It must proceed in an organized way and certainly

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not by small groups. Commanders and enlisted men must support each other by giving examples of gallantry. Help offered to each other is exceedingly important in this difficult type of operation.

13. Situations arising in war are variegated and it is impossible to foresee every case. The Manual establishes basic principles and methods of direction of modern warfare.

Chapter 1

General

1. Infantry and its place in Combat

1. Modern warfare is characterized by mass participation of the Infantry, Artillery, Mortars, Tanks, and Aircraft.

The Infantry accomplishes the basic and hardest mission: annihilation of the enemy in close combat.

The outcome of battle depends on resolute advance and stubborn defense of the Infantry.

The Infantry alone has the capacity of capturing and retaining territory.

2. The strength of the Infantry consists of fire power, capcity to combine fire with advance and bayonet fight. It can manoeuvre and conduct operations in any type of terrain, any climatic conditions, any time of the day, any weather.

3. The Infantry acts in close collaboration with other arms and services.

Collaboration of arms is organized in the interests of the Infantry.

The Infantry is divided according to its organization and purpose into the Rifle, Mountain Infantry, Motorized, Ski, and Airborne Infantry.

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2. Infantry. Its combat tasks

4. Combat is the only means for attainment of victory. Annihilation of the enemy manpower and materials is achieved in combat. It is in combat that the enemy's resistance is suppressed.

There are two types of Infantry combat: offensive and defensive.

The aim of every combat consists in defeating the enemy but it is the resolute offensive or counter-attack with a subsequent encirclement of the enemy or unrelenting pursuit that bring about the final crush of the enemy.

5. The offensive combat is the basic type of combat of the Red Army.

There can be no uninterrupted offensive in war. While advancing in one sector, forces carry on defensive operations in others. The defense takes place every time when the offensive becomes impossible or inexpedient.

As a rule the defensive must be active for it is only the active defense that can assure steady maintenance of the line.

The modern defense must be on the first place of anti-tank nature.

Situations of combat are multiform. This is why methods must conform with the situation. It is advisable to avoid cliches.

6. Tasks of the Infantry: In offensive combat:

Combining skilfully fire with movement, the Infantry must contact the enemy, attack them, capture or annihilate in a hand-to-hand battle. Then it must consolidate the newly captured area.

In defensive combat: Repulse enemy attacks by a powerful and precise fire and resolute counter-attacks, repel the enemy infantry and tanks, inflict heavy losses on them and retain the defended area.

[redacted]

Steady defense operations involve the honor of the Infantry.

No retreat is to be started unless an order is given by the superior commander.

3. Combat formations of Rifle battalion and regiment

7. Preparing for a combat, the Infantry assumes a combat formation. The latter must correspond to the idea and plan of the forthcoming operation. It must assure:

the fullest and simultaneous participation of the Infantry and its fire power from the start to the finish of the combat;

the best and most expedient use of reinforcements of the Infantry for the purpose of annihilation of the enemy in the selected sector;

collaboration within units, with adjacent units, and with reinforcements;

flexibility, controllability, and capacity to manoevring in the battlefield;

the best possible advantage of the area;

favorable conditions for repulsion of the ground forces of the enemy especially tanks on flanks and limiting points;

antiaircraft defense of the forces.

8. Combat formation of the Rifle regiment consists of formations of Rifle battalions, Artillery group, Tank group for immediate support of the Infantry (in case it operates in the regimental zone) and reserves.

Combat formations of Rifle battalions deploy:

in the offensive: all the three battalions in a line or wedge or echelonment the angle directed forward/ backward, to the right or to the left;

in defense: all the three battalions in a line, in case of exposed flank, echelonment to the right or to the left.

Battalion combat formations are made up of Rifle companies and their reinforcements, bases of fire (mortars, machine guns, antitank rifles, artillery), and reserves.

Depending upon a situation, Infantry companies within the battalion coordinate their activities and may operate in one of the following columns: forward in line of companies; one company forward and two companies to the flanks; three companies in one line; two companies forward and one company to the rear on the left flank.

9. Regiment commanders must have at their disposal reserves for repulsion of sudden thrusts especially on the flanks and limiting points, for support of acting units, and also for development and consolidation of captured territory.

The strength and personnel of reserves depend on the plan of the mission of the forthcoming operation, and the area occupied by the unit in combat formation.

During an offensive, in a normal situation with close flanks and also in a position defense reserves can be as follows:

in a regiment: a Rifle company, antitank rifles, machine gun unit, 45 mm and 76 mm guns;

in a battalion: Rifle or Submachine gun platoon, antitank rifle platoon, several machine guns, 45 mm guns.

4. Tactical Control of Rifle battalions and regiments

10. Development of combat according to the plan requires from the commander an expert, firm, and steady control over his units.

A battalion commander [redacted] operations personally. A regiment commander does it through his staff.

11. The control exercised by the Commander over his units is based upon:

correct understanding of his mission;

correct evaluation of the situation;

firm and definite purpose and its resolute realization;

concieseness, simplicity, and lucidity of orders;

establishment of supplementary tasks imposed by the situation;

control of the work done by the Staff and over the units engaged in accomplishment of tasks.

12. The commanders of the battalion and regiment must organise personally on the terrain coordination within the battalion and regiment and with the attached and supporting forces.

13. The commanders of the battalion and regiment direct the operation from the command posts. The basic and alternate command posts are established at a distance from advance troops permitting the Battalion commander observation of the battlefield and actions of his battalion, and to the Regiment commander observation of his regiment, at least on the direction of main effort, personal control over units, constant contact with them and, in case of necessity, personal intervention in the course of action.

It is only in exceptional cases that commanders are permitted to place themselves in front of their units and lead them into the battle.

14. Personal contact of the Battalion and Regiment commanders with their subordniates is of primary importane. It enables the commanders to transmit their orders and instructions directly to their subordinates at the same time it inspires the latter with faith in victory.

Personal contact is especially important before the beginning of the battle and at the time when the situation undergoes a sharp change.

15. Battalion and Regiment commanders must inform their Staff commanders (aides de camp) about their ideas and intentions. They must always keep them informed regarding orders given directly to units.

Regimental Chief of Staff and Battalion Adjutant must be always prepared for reporting to the Commander on the existing situation.

16. The duties of the Battalion commander and Regimental chief of staff in controlling of units during combat are as follows:

organization of reconnaissance, protection, observation, anti-tank and anti-aerial defense, and other measures of combat protection of forces;

collection, study, and processing of information regarding the enemy, their own units, terrain, state of the area, reports on these subjects to the Regiment Commander;

giving preliminary orders;

compilation, transmission of orders, control over precise and prompt execution of orders, control over all actions of forces;

organization of coordination between units and attached forces and reinforcements in combat;

presentation of reports regarding the situation to the superior headquarters, presenting information regarding situation to subordinate headquarters, adjacent units, and coordinating special troops;

organization of communications;

organization of the rear.

17. Control in combat is achieved through continuous communications attained by use of various means (radio, telephone, motorcycles, bicycle, light and sound signalization, liaison officers, foot and mounted messengers).

As a rule Artillery and Tanks extend communications to the Infantry. The latter, however, must make sure that these communications are secured.

Communication between adjacent units is organized by the right side unit towards the left side unit.

All the important messages and orders during combat must be duplicated.

The Regiment Staff and commanders of battalions must organize communication with their aircraft. Boundaries of captured territories must be promptly established.

For this purpose they must convey to unit commanders the recognition signal of aircraft for the day and keep them informed regarding the methods of marking (identification panels, rockets, smoke pots).

Following the recognition signal, units expose identification panels or mark their whereabouts by some other method.

Having identified their own location, the Regiment staff and Battalion commander verify the markings of the whereabouts of their units.

As soon as aircraft's recognition signal flashes "understood", the identification panels must be removed, all signals conveying the unit's location must be ceased.

18. Battalion and Regiment commanders are responsible for the readiness for combat of their units, for organization of control and action of troops during combat.

Chapter 2

Rifle Battalion

in Offensive Operation

19. A Rifle battalion with close flanks, depending on reinforcements and its power of resistance, must be able to attack the enemy on the battlefront of 700 meters.

20. The attack position of the Battalion must be as close to the enemy as possible.

The attack position for an offensive operation is the line from which the Battalion begins its advance in a combat formation under the coverage of all its means.

The attack position must offer good possibilities for observation of the enemy, protected locality for the Infantry, concealed approaches to the front edge of the enemy defense, and the most favorable conditions for the use of machine guns, mortars and artillery.

The attack position must be occupied rapidly and stealthily. Battalion elements in combat formations dig in. They must dig trenches, ditches, and slit trenches.

Companies in the attack position are placed directly in front of their assigned objectives. Machine guns, mortars, antitank rifles, and guns must be placed, from the very beginning of the offensive, in such positions that they could support the operation and repulse sudden tank and Infantry attacks.

Having concealed approaches, the Battalion can occupy an attack position within 800 meters from the frontal edge of the defense.

In case of absence of concealment, the Battalion unfurls earlier depending on artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire of the enemy. [redacted]

attack order,

31. Immediately upon receiving his ~~order~~, the Battalion commander organizes coverage in coordination with companies' and reinforcements' commanders and then proceeds and stealthily for a personal reconnaissance of the area/ enemy positions and for giving the order.

In performing the reconnaissance duty, the Commander must:

establish the best approaches to the enemy positions, their fire points and artificial obstacles erected in front of the enemy positions;

determine on the terrain the basic purposes of Infantry attack and actions of tanks, artillery, and mortars;

determine the aim of the main effort and select the direction considering the mission of his unit and actions of adjacent units, groupings of the enemy, the character of their fortifications and peculiarities of the area;

coordinate and link actions with commanders of supporting and reinforcing units of artillery, mortars and tanks (targets of suppression, lines of advance, landmarks, mutual target designation);

distribute his and the attached forces in conformance with the offensive plan;

determine the number and nature of obstacles and find ways through them;

give an oral order.

The main attack is to be inflicted at the point where the area offers good observation possibilities, concealed advance, and where the capture of objects and domineering heights would disrupt the enemy defense stability.

The bulk of forces and fire means must be concentrated on the point of main attack of the Battalion.

22. The oral order given by the Battalion commander must be clear and brief. Its conciseness must correspond to the shortness of time. In every case, however, the Commander outlines landmarks, the Battalion's mission, direction and aim of the offensive, his decisions with regard to the direction of the main attack, combat formation of the Battalion, the priority order of tasks charged to companies, assigns the leading company, distributes his own forces and the attached and supporting troops and explains their tasks, determines the necessary time for preparations and organization of signalization, points out the measures to be taken for protection of flanks and limiting points, reveals lines of the enemy defense, explains the supply system, and gives the location of his commanders' observation post.

23. Organizing the anti-aircraft defense, the commander assigns units for operations against aircraft.

24. On the terrain the Battalion commander briefs Rifle companies for their immediate tasks and explains the direction of advance to the reserves giving them also information with regard to reinforcements and the time of their arrival.

Determining the missions of supporting and attached artillery, the Battalion commander must be ready to concentrate the entire artillery fire on the direction of the main effort.

25. In his order to artillery and mortar units the Battalion commander explains:

objectives of annihilation and suppression;

objectives to which the fire must be shifted as soon as the Infantry starts attack;

the places in wire entanglements where gaps for passage must be made.

26. While giving his order to the Machine gun and Mortar companies, attached artillery and mortar units, and the Antitank Rifle company, the Battalion commander tells them whether they be at his disposal in their entirety or be attached in their larger part to Rifle companies. In the first case he assigns them their missions.

In order to be able to influence the course of action, the Commander retains at his disposal a Machine gun unit, Antitank Rifle, Mortar, 45 mm gun and Regimental Artillery Gun units. It is only in a very rugged or closed area that the Battalion commander is forced to distribute the greater part of attached and supporting fire means among companies.

27. Battalion mortars occupy positions in the combat formation of the companies.

The Machine gun company occupies fire positions by platoons and squads in gaps between Rifle companies, platoons and on the flanks.

Isolated artillery guns are placed in camouflaged open positions individually in the direction of the main attack of the Battalion in the gaps between squads, on the flanks and in the depth of the combat formation.

Antitank rifle squads or platoons occupy fire positions on the routes passable by tanks.

28. The following missions are charged to Submachine Gun units:

[redacted]

penetration into the enemy position for destruction of their most important fire points, especially at the moment when

the Infantry starts attack;

turning round the enemy open flank in order to attack the enemy forces from the rear at the moment when our Infantry starts to attack;

coverage of the flanks and rear of the Battalion from reconnaissance groups and submachine guns of the enemy.

Throughout the combat action the Battalion commander must employ Submachine gun units for wedging into the enemy strong points of defense in order to emerge into their artillery positions for destruction of their mortar, machine gun and artillery means, coverage groups, and means of transportation.

29. In order to secure uniterrupted advance of companies, the Battalion commander must take the following measures before the beginning of the offensive:

organize and bring forward mine removing groups formed from sappers attached to the Battalion equipped with mine detectors and scissors and employ Rifle troops for making gaps in the enemy obstacles on the direction of the main advance of the Battalion;

bring forward a large part of Submachine gun, Mortar, Anti-tank gun, and Machine gun units for suppression of the enemy fire points obstructing the advance of the Infantry and for the support of Mine removing groups.

[redacted]

30. Starting from its initial position the Battalion must advance rapidly, all its [redacted] simultaneously supported by all the fire means of the Battalion and Artillery.

31. Flank fire means of the enemy especially their machine guns, must be attacked by concentrated fire of machine guns, mortars, guns, and artillery attached to the Battalion in order to secure conditions for rapid advance of the Infantry.

32. Machine gun, Mortar, and Antitank rifle groups must advance in leapfrog movement within the Infantry combat formations. Their duty consists in giving constant support by fire to the advancing Infantry.

33. In order to regulate the advance, the Battalion commander appointe a leading company. He informs it with regard to landmarks, direction of movement, and the lines it must occupy. Other units follow at intervals and distances established by the commander.

34. Throughout the battle effort must be made toward turning movement which will permit attack on the enemy flank.

The main attack must be directed against any less strongly defended gaps in the enemy defense. This attack must be supported by all available fire means.

35. New tasks are placed before Company commanders and commanders of groups attached to the Battalion and supporting it. These tasks are dictated by changes in the situation in the course of the operation. Their accomplishment contributes toward realization of the basic aim of the operation.

36. The Battalion can attack the enemy from a position or without any halting place. Such non-stop attack can be successful against a disorganized enemy.

The line of departure must be located as near the enemy as possible depending on the character of the terrain. Operations must be organized in such a way that our forces should not suffer losses from our own artillery and mortar fire during preparations.

37. Before occupying the line of departure the Battalion commander brings up the reserves and all the fire means in order to be able to employ them during the fight within the enemy zone defense.

38. The attack is prepared by concentrated fire of all the means of the Battalion, units attached to it, and supporting forces. It must be directed especially against the flanking fire points and antitank weapons of the enemy.

The fire means must be prepared to suppress all the new and reviving fire points of the enemy throughout the operation.

All the commanders must check on the results of preparation of fire means and must report to their supesior commanders.

39. When the necessary preparations are accomplished, the Battalion commander gives signal to the Artillery to shift fire to the depth of the enemy defense and onto their flanks. This is followed by the order to start a resolute attack.

In the cases of participation of tanks, the Battalion commander gives the attack order as soon as the tanks reach the line of departure.

40. Passages in wire entanglementsare made by platoons under coverage of fire means of the Company commander.

When two passages are made for one company, the third platoon and all the attached to the company fire means are distributed by the Company commander depending on the mission and situation.

Were there only one passage, the Company commander establishes a priority order and the method of coverage.

Obstacles which were not destroyed by Artillery must be mastered independently with means on hand with the support of fire provided by Submachine gun troops marching in front.

41. While he observes the development of the battle personally, the Commander must:

support the most successful Company during the attack on the front line of the defense by the basic part of fire means and Artillery;

see to it that reserves do not lag behind companies and be in readiness to develop their successes;

secure a fire coverage of the Battalion against aerial attacks;

42. As soon as the companies capture the strong points of the front line of the defense, the Battalion commander must detail a large number of accompanying guns, mortars, and machine guns, and also antitank rifles into the forward units in order to secure further success of the attack and to repulse counterattack launched by tanks and Infantry of the enemy.

Fire means and forces remaining temporarily static must be immediately fortified.

43. The Infantry on the direction of main effort must be reinforced by tanks which operate in full coordination with it as tanks of immediate support to the Infantry.

The tanks act together with the Infantry and must never disengage themselves for a distance exceeding 200 to 400 meters.

Were the Infantry to become unable to follow the tanks, the Tank group commander must detail the necessary number of tanks in order to destroy the enemy fire points obstructing the advance of the Infantry.

The Infantry must do its best to disable the enemy antitank means by its fire power and that of accompanying guns. It must conduct reconnaissance operations and clear mine fields, help the tanks to master obstacles and marshy areas, fight the enemy tank-

chasers, resolutely follow the tanks into the attack, quickly consolidate lines they capture, cover arriving supplies of ammunition and fuel for tanks, and help to evacuate damaged tanks from the battlefield.

44. In case premature successes are attained due to independent action of a company, the Battalion Commander must use all means to support it. Especially important in this case is linking its actions with those of artillery and mortars and also protection of flanks.

45. Having broken into the enemy defensive zone, the Battalion employs a part of its forces for a rapid consolidation of the points it holds in frontal defense line and, having organized reconnaissance and fire, advances resolutely depriving the enemy of a chance to develop counterattack.

Enemy counterattacks must be repulsed immediately by fire and attacks.

In order to secure successful development of the operation, the Battalion commander drawn up to the attacking companies all the reserves and the entire fire power.

On the first place he must support the most advanced company by annihilating the enemy acting on its flanks.

The used reserve must be immediately restored.

46. Distributing his artillery and fire means among the companies during combat deep within the enemy defense, the Battalion commanders retains sufficient means to be able to influence the course of battle. In case of a change of situation in the depth of the enemy defense, the Battalion commander executes a quick regrouping of his forces and especially of his fire means in order to secure continuous success. Enemy fortified points must be successively

captured one by one.

47. Throughout combat operations deep within the enemy defense, the Battalion commander must take all possible measures for maintenance of antitank and anti-airoraft defense, observation, and communications.

Especial attention must be paid to the flank situation of the Battalion. All enemy attempts to develop counterattack must be frustrated.

48. In case the enemy counterattack is directed against the adjacent sector, the Battalion commander, without stopping the advance of his unit, gives fire support to the attacked neighbor.

49. Strongly fortified points of the enemy (commanding heights, localities, thickets) must be ~~xxxxxx~~ blocked by a part of the Battalion, while remaining forces by-pass them continuing their advance. Such actions must be reported to the Regiment commander.

50. Throughout actions in the depth of the enemy defense positions the Battalion commander must insure his forces with uninterrupted supply of ammunition. No means must be spared for this purpose.

51. At the first signs of the enemy's preparations for withdrawal, the Battalion commander sends the larger part of his fire means towards the most advanced company in order to annihilate the enemy totally or capture them and prevent their retreat.

52. In order to perform attacks onto flanks and against the rear of the enemy, the Battalion commander directs Rifle units and Submachine gun troops, if they are attached to the Battalion, to disorganize the enemy control, destroy their means of transportation, and introduce panic into their withdrawing columns.

The beginning of a pursuing operation must be promptly reported to the Regiment commander.

The Battalion commander ~~directs~~ points to companies the direction of pursuit , organizes reconnaissance and protection of the flanks by covering them with antitank means.

Battalion commander must be in the ~~mass~~ nearest possible vicinity ~~of~~ the advance companies.

53. Pursuing the enemy, the Battalion commander must be ready for any resolute and quick action for preventing any enemy attempt to renew resistance. For this purpose he must employ reserve, fire means, and fire of the supporting and attached to the Battalion artillery.

The pursuing operation is conducted with use of all the forces. All the enemy routes of retreat must be cut, the enemy artillery captured, individual units of their combat formation annihilated.

54. If the offensive must be preceded by approach to the enemy defense, the advancing Battalion must close ~~in~~ in on the enemy.

The Battalion must in this case advance along concealed approach routes in dispersed formation trying to postpone deployment in combat formation in the interest of speed.

Machine gun and mortar fire are conducted at the head of the Battalion.

55. All measures must be taken by the Battalion commander to protect the Battalion from attacks by tanks and aircraft. Observation and signalization must be organized, concealed or camouflaged routes selected. The Battalion commander assigns ~~main~~ tasks to machine guns, artillery, Rifle units, and antitank rifles.

Without slowing down its advance, the Battalion must be in full readiness to engage the enemy.

56. The machine guns assigned for defense must advance in leapfrog movement for uninterrupted protection of the Battalion.

Individual guns and Antitank ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ rifle units must also advance in leapfrog movement. They must be in continuous preparedness to open fire against the enemy fire points obstructing the ~~xxxxxx~~ development of offensive operations by the Infantry.

57. The Battalion commander must be in constant contact with the Regiment commander, Artillery and subordinate commanders. He must organize a relentless observation ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ of the enemy, his own and adjacent units.

58. The Battalion ammunition carts, hospital and decontamination vehicles must follow the Battalion at a distance of 1 to 1½ kilometers.

2. Rifle Battalion in Advance Guard in Approach to the Enemy Defense Zone.

59. Assigned as an Advance guard, the Rifle Battalion must perform the following tasks:

master the line of obstacle and capture or annihilate the enemy ~~defending~~ and their equipment;

capture an advantageous line and points providing good observation facilities of the ~~defense~~ defense zone and deployment of main forces;

reconnoiter the frontal edge of the defense zone of the enemy.

60. Acting on a line up to 3 kilometers in width, the Battalion must be reinforced by 1 to 2 batteries, individual guns, mortars, submachine gun troops, antitank rifles, and sappers.

61. Previously to advance of the march outpost the Battalion commander must obtain from the Regiment commander and reconnaissance groups all possible information regarding the enemy defending the obstacles, the terrain, nature and depth of the obstacles.

Independently of reconnaissance groups dispatched to missions by the Superior Reconnaissance Commander, the Battalion commander must organize his own reconnaissance in the zone of advance. The latter must include all roads leading towards the enemy. Submachine gun groups, sappers, and chemical soldiers must be included into reconnaissance patrols.

Reconnaissance tasks include:

establishing of the contact with the enemy and study of their positions;

penetration into the enemy rear;

evaluation of passableness of roads for artillery, tanks, and convoys.

62. For clearing of the main route of obstacles, a group is formed in strength of 1 to 2 Rifle squads. This group proceeds together with the advance guards.

63. The Battalion commander follows immediately the advance party during the march. He must have at his disposal a reconnaissance reserve, submachine gunners, an Artillery commander, and a Mortar squad commander as well as messengers belonging to companies and communication means, radio, mounted messengers, and motorcyclists.

64. With the beginning of combat, the Battalion commander sends forward machine guns, mortars, and unfurls artillery. Main forces of the Battalion must continue advance movement.

Occupying gaps between obstacles march columns must be covered by fire. They must attack the enemy resolutely and strive to emerge on the enemy retreat route.

65. While observing constantly the course of the combat, the Battalion commander must see that columns are supported by

Artillery fire. He must unwaveringly attack the enemy with all means at his disposal inflicting blows to the point where success has been achieved and where march columns penetrated into the defensive line of the enemy. While breaking through the enemy defensive positions, the Battalion supported by all the fire means must strive to cut off the enemy withdrawal, to capture or annihilate them.

66. A Rifle Battalion detailed by the Division Commander as a Reconnaissance detachment (reconnaissance in force) must be reinforced by artillery, tanks (armored cars), engineer detachments, and chemical units. The mission of the Battalion dictates rapid and energetic action. It consists in breaking through the enemy reconnaissance and defense and force them into combat.

67. Reconnaissance Detachment performs operations in a zone of 3 to 8 kilometers by reconnaissance patrols strength of from squad to platoon. These units must be briefed regarding their missions, directions, and objectives.

The distance between a reconnaissance detachments and the main forces of the Division must not exceed from 8 to 10 kilometers.

3. Peculiarities of attacks against fortified areas and strongly fortified positions.

68. During a break through of a fortified area and strongly fortified position, the Battalion is allowed 600 meters along the front line.

The immediate task of the Battalion consists in capture of the frontal edge of pillboxes, capture or annihilation of manpower, and fire means especially antitank ones, and capture of the entire fortified point. [redacted]

69. Having been assigned to his mission, the Battalion commander, in coordination with the companies' and attached and supporting units' commanders, performs reconnaissance of the area, the enemy, and organizes coordinated action. He establishes the number and strength of obstacle clearing detachments and storm groups within companies and gives the order.

70. While organizing coordination on the terrain, the Battalion commander must

point out landmarks to his own, attached, and supporting units, code local objects and lines;

give precise direction regarding objectives of coordinated attack by Rifle companies, tanks, and Storm groups;

specify the artillery, tanks, mortars, and machine guns which are to support Storm groups and companies, establish the order of subordination and methods of target-designation;

specify: for Rifle companies lines of attack; for machine guns, mortars, accompanying guns points for their fire positions for support of the attack and order of advancing to successive positions;

assign obstacle clearing groups with precise missions for cutting or enlarging of passages through obstacles and for offering support to tanks and artillery in their forward movement;

specify to the attached tanks the order and place of departure from initial position (in conformance with the hour of attack) and location of their passage through the Battalion's combat formation;

assign tasks, specify the order and time to open fire to the guns for support of tanks;

establish objectives for blinding by mortars, specifying

means and time for it;

establish coordination signals;

point out the order and succession of movement of the

Commander's post and the location of the post of the Supporting artillery commander.

71. The Battalion commander checks on the units' commanders on the terrain. He makes sure that they understood their missions and took corresponding measures for their fulfillment.

During the Artillery preparations, the Battalion commander dispatches obstacle-clearing groups which under coverage of reconnaissance or combat security groups cut passages or clear those made by the artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire.

Were the passages located in the immediate vicinity of the enemy frontal line of defense, or in an open area, the obstacle-clearing groups work at night.

72. The signal "Attack" given by the Battalion commander

starts storming of the main line.

Storm groups advance by rush, [redacted] creeping over, or on armored trailers behind the tanks. While the artillery fire is shifted towards the depth of the enemy defense, they storm a pillbox, annihilate the enemy or capture them.

Simultaneously units of the Battalion attack the enemy fire means, capture or annihilate the manpower in spaces between pill-boxes, in trenches, and passages.

Accompanying guns, machine guns, antitank rifles, and mortars follow the attacking Infantry. Other fire means suppress the targets from which the artillery fire was switched, especially flanking machine guns.

73. Were any pillboxes discovered in the depth and on the flanks of the enemy holding the attack and advance of combat

formations of the Battalion, the Commander must instruct the tanks, artillery, and storm groups to block and destroy them, to bring forth quickly guns of light and heavy artillery and anti-tank rifles for opening fire against the pillboxes' embrasures.

Suppression of the pillboxes' fire is a signal for continuation of the attack.

Success of the entire Battalion depends on the speed and coordinated action of the storm troops and artillery fire.

Companies must be prepared for repulsion of counter-attacks of the enemy block-removing parties.

74. Directing the combat in the depth of the enemy defense, the Battalion commander must

assign and specify missions to storm groups, Rifle companies, artillery, mortars, and other means of suppression assisting the advance and successive capture of the enemy strong points;

see that machine guns, mortars, and accompanying guns do not get detached from the combat formation of the Battalion;

provide with fire cover the Battalion's flanks and assist the adjacent units;

continue uninterrupted observation, communication, coordination and supply of the Battalion with ammunition;

report to the Regiment commander and inform adjacent units about the blocked and destroyed reinforced concrete pillboxes of the enemy;

discover promptly the action of counter-attacking enemy and annihilate them by fire and attacks by companies, fortify the captured area.

4. Peculiarities of Night Offensive Operations.

75. Night attacks are used for limited objectives or for achieving approach to the enemy.

Preparations for night operations must be done by the Battalion commander during daytime. He must perform Commander's reconnaissance, designate the direction of the movement by using natural or artificial landmarks, and give preliminary training to guides.

76. The Battalion commanders computes a detailed plan for the night attack. The plan must foresee reconnaissance, security, destruction of obstacles, measures for maintenance of the direction, and actions to be taken place after the capture of enemy positions.

He must give the companies', attached and supporting units' commanders their tasks not later than 1½ hours before the fall of darkness. He must impart to them his plan.

77. Machine gun and mortar companies as well as artillery proceed in combat formations during night attacks. They maintain combat formations of companies, while the task of machine guns and artillery, especially the flanking ones, consists in contributing towards retention of positions captured by the Battalion.

78. The Artillery supporting the Battalion must prepare concentrated standing barrage in order to cut off the attacked objective on the flanks, along lines where counterattacks are expected, and in the rear in order to cut off any withdrawal.

The artillery unit attached to the Battalion prepares during daytime all the means for fire against the enemy machine gun nests. Firing is done by artificial lighting.

Concentrated artillery and morter fire must be prepared for a second storming in case of the failure of a sudden night attack.

[redacted]

79. Rifle companies start movement from their initial positions at the time and following the order designated by the Battalion commander.

If caught by a searchlight, the troops lie down. They continue advance as soon as darkness returns.

80. Obstacle removing groups are detailed by the Battalion commander for cutting passages in obstades erected in front of the enemy positions. These groups advance in front of companies and perform their tasks under the Latter's coverage. The cutting of passages must be done in a noiseless and concealed manner. They must not attract the attention of the enemy. They must be completed before the approach of the Battalion to the obstacles.

81. As soon as the attack signal is given, the Battalion, without shouting "hurrah", resolutely breaks into the enemy position firing point blank , forcing the enemy out of trenches by bayonets and grenades.

Machine gun and mortar companies and other fire means are immediately drawn to the newly captured positions by the Battalion commander. The positions are fortified at once and security and reconnaissance groups sent forth.

82. Artillery, mortars, and machine guns supporting the night attack open fire after the enemy open their machine gun and artillery fire against the attacking Battalion.

83. In case of a failure, the Battalion re-assembles at its initial position for another attack. Meanwhile the artillery and machine guns concantrate fire against the objective. The attack must be repeated.

84. Closing in on the enemy at night is done by squad columns from two to four squads. Reconnaissance

and security groups are sent forward and patrols to the flanks. Close contact is constantly maintained among companies.

85. In order to regulate the movement, the Battalion commander designates a leading company. He directs the Battalion personally following the leading company. He must make halts in order to draw up those who lag behind and check on direction.

86. Small enemy units, their security and reconnaissancegroups are captured or annihilated in a bayonet thrust.

87. In case the night operation is performed only in order to approach the enemy and occupy a position for attack, the Battalion commander must also organize reconnaissance of the enemy positions and eliminate obstacles. He must organize all the preparations for repulsion of counterattacks.

88. Due to the fact that the enemy may always use nights for withdrawal, the Battalion commander must maintain constant contact with the enemy by sending reconnaissance groups and in case of necessity launching short attacks.

As soon as the Battalion commander finds out that the enemy are withdrawing, he immediately forms groups of pursuit. Successful break through carried out at night, even if it was performed by one platoon, may cause panic and contribute to towards full success of the attack.

Throughout the pursuing operation, the Battalion commander must keep in mind the necessity of firm direction and security of flanks.

5. Peculiarities of Offensive against Inhabited Locality.

89. Thorough reconnaissance must precede attack on a small inhabited locality or parts of a small town. All the approaches, the contour of outskirts, character of buildings, arrangement of streets, defensive installations, and location of the enemy fire means must be carefully reconnoitered.

90. The Battalion commander must work out a detailed plan of attack on an inhabited locality foreseeing the sequence of actions leading to its capture. His plan must include use of artillery and other fire means, organization of combat formation, and methods of capture of the enemy at fortified points.

91. The basic aim of this offensive consists in the capture of defensive installation of the enemy erected in front of the inhabited locality, capture of flanking salients, and finally capture of the entire outskirts of the locality.

Fighting for a small point, the Battalion advances for immediate capture of the outskirts on the opposite side. A town is captured block by block.

Individual masonry buildings are attacked after suppression of adjacent fire points and undermining of a wall by sappers under coverage of fire.

92. The attacked block must be divided into sectors. Disconnected enemy groups must be prevented from uniting. A block must be attacked simultaneously from several sides.

93. In case the part of town attacked by the Battalion contains a telephone central office or telegraph station, the Battalion must try to capture them promptly and disrupt communication.

Attacks on strongly fortified points must be carried out by storm groups similarly to attacks on reinforced-concrete pillboxes.

Firing points of the enemy are destroyed by artillery, mortars, individual guns ~~mmxtxhs~~ by direct laying.

94. The capture of an inhabited locality is a result of several battles having no connection. This is the reason why the Battalion commander must maintain communication with adjacent units and the rear. He must organize all-around-security, firm direction of companies, prompt assistance by fire means, and ammunition supply.

As soon as the locality is captured, all the remaining points of resistance must be destroyed, enemy groups annihilated, barricades and obstacles which cannot be used demolished.

95. In case a river cuts the locality, all the bridges must be captured and adjoining buildings utilized for construction of a bridgehead.

6. Special features of advance in forest area.

96. Enemy defending the edge of a forest is attacked according to general rules of offensive operations. Main effort must be directed towards capture of projections of the forest, whence the enemy flanks the edge. The forest must be penetrated, even if by small forces, so that blows from the flanks and rear would help the capture of the entire forest edge.

Having captured the edge, the Battalion commander forms the Battalion and immediately ~~xxxxxx~~ goes on with the advance having ~~xx~~ organized the rear.

Greater part of the ~~fixing~~ fire means are distributed among companies. The Battalion commander follows the leading company.

97. In case the forest is small the subsequent task consists in emerging on the opposite edge.

When moving through a large forest, the Battalion proceeds from one clearing to another, halting in order to draw up subdivisions, restore communications, and check on the direction.

98. While moving through a forest, the Battalion proceeds in a ~~fixmx~~ diamond formation. It must be protected not only from the front, but also from the flanks and rear. Moving in front of the Battalion, the security group must not exceed a distance of 100 meters from the main forces. It must search for the enemy not only on the ground, but also on ~~xxxxx~~ trees. Groups of excellent riflemen and snipers are detailed to annihilate snipers hiding on trees.

Transverse roads and clearing must be preliminarily reconnoitered, to the sides at the distance of 400 meters, and kept under observation.

Large glades must be by-passed, a part of forces and large part of firing means being detailed for holding the enemy defending the glade ~~xx~~ from the front. A reserve must be detailed for countering envelopment and turning movement of the enemy acting against our by-passing forces.

The forces come out of the forest after ~~xxxxx~~ thorough reconnaissance and after having restored ~~xxxxxxx~~ order in units.

99. During an offensive operation in a forest the Battalion maintains absolute silence. It must be prepared for all kinds of surprises (mines, obstacles) and to attacks which may come from any side. Weapons must be always loaded and grenades kept in readiness. Units must be equipped with axes and large shovels.

Encountering the enemy, the Battalion must shower them with

[redacted]

concentrated fire and immediately attack with bayonets.

Measures against forest fire must be taken by the Battalion commander during dry weather.

100. While advancing in wooded and marshy area with units attached to it, the Battalion represents an independently acting detachment. It marches along the road and also cross country.

It must have a strong reserve and pay special attention to flank reconnaissance. It must organize all-around-security and take measures against aerial attacks.

101. Offensive combat conducted by a Battalion in a wodded and marshy area is often reduce to a fight for the capture of a pass (corduroy road, isthmus between swamps and lakes) defended by small enemy forces.

Taking advantage of the area for concealed approach, the Battalion must attack suddenly on the flank and rear.

In case of absence of approach to the pass, or in case approaches are covered with artillery and machine gun fire of the enemy, the Battalion commander must detail a detachment for enveloping and suddenly attacking the enemy on the flank and rear while simultaneously small forces advance from the front. After that the Battalion develops a rapid pursuit of the enemy.

Units designated for enveloping movement must not use wheel transport. They must maintain communication with the Battalion by radio. They must have submachine gun troops attached to them for protection of flanks, combing of the forest, envelopment of the flanks and emerging in the enemy rear.

102. Having captured the pass, the Battalion commander must send forward reconnaissance troops in order to maintain contact with the enemy, secure passage through the pass for remaining forces

of the Battalion, assist adjacent units by attacking the flank and rear of the enemy, organize anti-aerial defense of the pass. The Battalion commander must report the outcome of the battle and his decisions regarding his further action to the Regiment commander.

7. Special features of offensive operations involving forced river crossing.

103. The basic factors of successful operation involving a forced river crossing are the suddenness of the crossing and fire superiority over the enemy. This is why it is necessary to throw advance companies over the river in order to capture the opposite bank at night or dawn.

104. The Battalion commander receives from the Regiment commander a tentative plan of crossing which outlines:

the time and order of throwing the enemy back from the bank;

order of support of the crossing by the firing means of the Regiment (artillery, mortars, machine guns);

intermediate position area and departure area of crossing units, place of embarcation, initial line;

places of crossing, time of preparations, dispositions of troops and crossing means;

approaches to places of ~~xxxxx~~ embarcation from the area of concentration;

order of crossing for advance groups;

priority of respective echelons, time of crossing for each echelon;

place and unit which is to organize anti-aerial defense and gas alarm;

communication with the Battalions which had already crossed over;

measures of security for the crossing;

reserves of crossing equipment.

105. Companies' and supporting and attached units' commanders must reconnoiter the approaches to the crossing places during daytime.

106. Units of the Battalion assigned for the first echelon to cross the river must unnoticed by the enemy occupy the initial position at the hour designated in the plan. Means of crossing must be available and used for a rapid crossing.

The first echelon to cross includes at least a Rifle company reinforced by a platoon of machine gun, artillery and anti-tank troops, forward observers from Artillery, Chief of signal communication line connecting higher headquarters with the echelon with means of communication (preferably radio), and sappers.

107. In case the situation is favorable, it is advisable to send over to the opposite bank a group of selected soldiers armed with anti-tank rifles on board light craft of crossing in order to capture territory.

108. The Battalion commander crosses with the first echelon in order to direct the battle personally. The necessary crossing craft are taken over at the same time.

Remaining units of the Battalion cross aboard the returning craft observing the order of priority established by the plan of crossing.

109. The enemy firing points must be immediately suppressed by artillery, mortars, and machine guns protecting the crossing in case the enemy should open fire.

110. After occupying [redacted] position on the opposite

the first echelon covers the crossing of remaining ~~exhaxsxs~~ forces of the Battalion. The offensive operation is resumed after the entire Battalion was taken over. Once on the other side of the river, the Battalion acts rapidly and resolutely attacking the enemy with utmost courage.

The Battalion commander must pay special attention to reconnaissance and protection of flanks on the enemy bank.

8. Offensive operations in conditions of winter.

111. Winter offensive is organized in such a manner that the time of stay of the Battalion on its initial position is greatly reduced, so is the time of stay on the line of march. Long ~~haltsxshaukdxhexaxxatsedx~~ intervals in the course of battle should be avoided.

112. ~~Thisxadvancingxfromxthexareaxofximmediatexcontact~~ ~~withxthexenemy~~ In offensive operations which involve advance from the area of immediate contact with the enemy, the Battalion commander must have the initial position equipped with snow trenches, warm shelters, and ditches. The snow trenhhes must enable a concealed advance of the Infantry and firing means.

113. Before starting the offensive, the Battalion commander must organize reconnaissance and observation in order to find out the enemy system of disposition of Infantry, fire power and obstacles. The enemy is usually well camoflaged by the snow.

114. The initial line for an offensive operation must be occupied uner the cover of darkness not long before dawn in order to avoid superfluous losses, secure the suddenness of the attack and avoid freezing of men.

115. The offensive from the zone of immediate contact with the enemy is conducted along snow trenches without abris.

Accompanying artillery goes on with the Infantry regardless of the thickness of the snow cover. Guns are mounted on sleighs or skis as well as machineguns and mortars. Ammunition is transported by travois or by men on skis.

116. The Battalion commander must use his initiative in directing the movement of artillery accompanying the Infantry and must detail the necessary number of men for this purpose.

117. Having captured the frontal edge of the enemy defense, the Battalion under fire coverage continues attack in the depth of defense using the enemy trenches and passages for concealed advance. Strong points of resistance encountered during this movement must be enveloped and attacked from the flank and rear simultaneously while they are blocked by a part of the forces.

Courageous action, even be it by small ski subdivisions, on the flanks and rear can sometimes secure considerable success.

118. The best results can be obtained by night attacks during snow storms and snowfall. This kind of weather can be taken advantage of for a rapid engagement and sudden thrust. In these conditions the maintenance of correct direction and close unity with the artillery and mortars is of utmost importance.

119. In absence of a continuous front of defense, the offensive plan is based on enveloping, blows onto the flanks and rear of the enemy by small advancing forces. In this case the unit engaged in enveloping manoeuvre proceeds on skis.

9. Special features in offensive operations on mountainous terrain.

120. Offensive operations in the mountains consist of successive attacks on individual heights with support of flanking fire from adjacent heights and ranges.

In order to capture a height the Battalion holds the enemy by small forces attacking from the front supported by artillery and mortar fire while main forces outflank the enemy and emerge ~~in~~ their rear.

121. While preparing for an attack against the main line of resistance, artillery and mortars suppress first of all the flanking target on projecting spurs and commanding heights.

Before the Infantry thrust, mortars, machine guns and individual guns suppress the flanking fire points of the enemy.

Incessant fire support must be offered to the attacking Infantry.

From the very beginning of the operation a part of mortars, machine guns, and individual guns pass in leapfrog movement to new gun positions without getting disengaged from the combat formations of the Infantry. Remaining mortars, machine guns, and individual guns continue fire from the depth of combat formations in support of the attack.

As soon at the height or range was captured, mortars, machine guns and individual guns, which accompanied the attack, move forward and assist in consolidation work. Other mortars, machine guns, and individual guns are promptly drawn up to the captured area onto new gun positions.

122. In preparing attack against many-tier position of the enemy, artillery, and mortars suppress the fire means situated on the lowest tier of the defense.

As soon as the Infantry ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ starts the attack by a thrust, mortars shift fire to the upper tiers of the defense.

The fire against the lowest tier, however, is continued by the

accompanying the infantry attack.

As soon as the lower tier is captured, the fire means proceed in leapfrog movement to new fire positions. They help the Infantry to follow up their success and continue fire for suppression of upper tiers for preparation of the next attack by the Infantry.

123. Radio, light signal, and transportation means communication is to be continuously ~~supported~~ maintained.

124. The ammunition supply point and aid station deploy and follow at the distance not exceeding one half-hour from the front line companies.

Chapter 3

A Rifle Battalion in a Meeting Engagement

125. In expectation of a Meeting Engagement, the Battalion commander assigned into vanguard organizes march, takes a decision in conformance with the general mission of the column of the main forces. He must foresee the deployment of his main forces along the lines of the march routes where the clash with the enemy is probable.

126. The Battalion commander proceeds in the ~~composition~~ of advance party together with deputy commanders of units and the commanders of the attached and supporting artillery. At the beginning of combat action by advance party, the Battalion commander, after personal reconnaissance, takes the decision. The speed with which he arrives at his decision is exceedingly important. For a correct decision he must estimate the terrain and select the shortest direction for attack.

127. Having arrived at his decision, the Battalion commander gives oral orders to units' commanders directly or through their deputies.

The order includes the immediate tasks assigned to the Rifle, Machine-gun, and Mortar companies, the antitank company and Artillery. The direction of the attack is indicated by local objects.

Companies must deploy rapidly from the march column and quickly turn to the offensive.

128. The basic success in a meeting engagement consists in forestalling the enemy in deployment and capture of advantageous lines. This is why the Battalion commander employs a greater part of his forces grouping them in the most important direction, covering them by artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, and taking advantage of the fire support offered by the column of main forces. The impetus of the offensive and attack, the speed in involving all the fire means have decisive importance.

129. In a meeting engagement the basic action is an outflanking movement with a greater part of forces combined with simultaneous attack by the remainig forces from the front.

If the enemy manage to forestall this action and deployed first, the vanguard must develop defense of an advantageous line and, holding the enemy, retain the line until the arrival of main forces.

130. In case of withdrawal of the enemy, the Battalion immediately develops a rapid, relentless pursuit. Rolled into a column, the unit must cut the enemy routes of retreat.

In order to prevent the enemy from getting disengaged, the Battalion commander undertakes decisive action, tries to hold the enemy at the front and do his utmost to achieve their total annihilation.

131. When the enemy develop defensive operations, the Battalion commander must plan an offensive action having first occupied a line suitable for deployment of main forces.

Chapter 4

Rifle Battalion in Defensive Action

1. Position Defense

132. Battalion Defense Area covers up to 2 kilometers along the front and from 1½ to 2 kilometers in depth. It consists of Company defense areas.

The Battalion Center of Resistance is organized in the Battalion Defense Area. It includes the greater part of main strong points of companies, the reserve battalion, and positions of fire means of the Battalion united in the general fire system and equipped with all-around obstacles. The defense must be of all-around type and in the first place must be the anti-tank one.

133. While the Battalion commander organizes defense, he must;

create a defense center and equip it as an antitank one;

organize all-around defense in order to enable the Battalion to continue the battle with its own means even though enemy sectors may be broken through and the Battalion were fully surrounded.

The Battalion must never withdraw without an order to this effect by the Battalion commander.

134. The Battalion commander and the Regiment commander participate in the inspection of the main line of resistance performed by the Division commander.

The main line of resistance is established by the Division commander, assisted by the Regiment and Battalion commanders, on the te[redacted]

In case the situation is not suitable for establishment of the main line of resistance by the Division commander personally/together with the Regiment and Battalion commanders, this prerogative is granted to the Battalion commander who addresses his report containing his decision to the Regiment commander.

135. At the time when an offensive operation turns into a defensive one, or during organization of defense, the latter must be constructed on advantageous lines held by the Battalion or in the immediate rear.

In case the defense is organized in the immediate rear, the Battalion must be moved onto advantageous lines after a report to this effect was submitted to the Regiment commander. A combat outpost must be organized in the place which the Battalion occupied previously.

136. After being assigned his mission, the Battalion commander sends forth a reconnaissance group with a combat security group and covertly brings the Battalion out into the defense area, where he conducts reconnaissance assisted by subordinate commanders. This reconnaissance includes:

the Battalion defense area;

the area in front of it and on flanks in order to establish possibilities of its attack from the Battalion defense center. He must make sure that every point of the area within 400 meters could be placed under effective fire and that enemy outflanking movement could be prevented;

possible enemy approaches, especially those suitable for enemy tanks;

the rear area for reconnoitering objects favorable for defense and of obstacles impeding counterattack.

137. The combat security of the Battalion usually consists of a Rifle platoon reinforced by machine guns, mortars, antitank rifles, and in case of necessity, individual guns. The combat security must be supported by fire of the Division Artillery and the Battalion firing means.

Assigning the mission to the Combat Security, the Battalion commander points out to its Commander:

the disposition of the Combat Security and time for preparations;

support to be expected from the Artillery and other firing means;

passages to be cut in obstacles and their location.

138. In the course of reconnaissance, the Battalion commander specifies the location of the Battalion Defense Center on/whose retention depends the stability of the Battalion's defense. He establishes:

companies' defense areas and main strong points of companies;

fire missions of companies and the frontal boundary of the continuous fire barrage;

observation posts, areas accessible to tanks and approaches in the depth of the defense;

fire missions, firing position areas of machine guns, mortars, and guns, positions of flanking and traditore machine guns and artillery, antitank rifles' positions;

direction of counter-attacks;

order of maintenance of communication with the Regimental and Battalion reconnaissance groups;

call signal, signals of cease and transfer of fire mgmax of the supporting artillery, mortars, and machine guns;

withdrawal signal and the withdrawal route for the Combat Security group.

139. The Forward Edge of the Defense Area must secure:

observation over the enemy and area;

the best conditions for organization of cross and short range surprise flanking fire, possibilities for machine gun, mortar, and antitank rifle fire and artillery placed in the depth;

concealed dispositions of firing points at the forward edge;

concealed disposition of the rear.

140. The Battalion commander establishes the most advantageous observation posts on the side of the enemy and having occupied these posts decides on the parts of the defense area to be observed from respective posts in order to use this information for organization of the Defense Center.

141. The Battalion commander breaks his defense area into three Company Areas (scheme on p. 58).

Boundaries of company defense areas must coincide and be defined by local objects which should be not easily noticeable by the enemy.

The companies within the Battalion defense area can be in wedge formation, in inverted wedge formation, placed or in a line (all the three companies in one line).

While ranging the Battalion on exposed flank, the Battalion commander places one of the companies with echelonment backward.

142. The Battalion commander points out to every company defense areas defined by local objects, zones of fire, main fortified points, sectors which are to be subjected to oblique machine gun fire and morter fire.

143. Organization of Infantry fire is one of the most important duties of the Battalion commander.

He disposes a part of machine guns in such a fashion that their close range, flank, or oblique fire could reach the obstacles, approaches to obstacles, and the entire zone in front of the forward edge and on the flanks of the Battalion. Another part of machine guns is placed in the depth of the defense center for conduct of fire against the approaches to the forward edge at long and short distances, against the enemy wedged into the defense area, and against the enemy outflanking the Battalion.

114. Rifle companies, using their organic equipment, must maintain a continuous band of frontal and oblique fire in front of the forward edge of the defense area, while the company in the depth must do the same in front of its formation.

Every point within an area of up to 400 meters must be under effective fire in front of the forward edge of the Battalion.

145. Concentrated mortar and artillery fire must be prepared to cover all gullies, ravines, and other approaches to the forward edge and to the depth of the defense area which cannot be reached by flat rifle and machine gun fire.

146. The Reserve Battalion must be disposed in such a manner that it could cover the open flank.

147. The Battalion commander must point to the Machine Gun company the firing position areas (basic and alternate), zones of fire in front of the forward edge, within the defense area, and in front of adjacent areas. He gives instruction regarding fire against remote approaches, organization of anti aircraft defense, and support of combat security.

148. The Battalion commander points to the Mortar Company several fire positions, paying special attention to their

camouflage, the zone of fire, secondary direction of fire, and fire tasks missions in front of the forward edge and in the depth of defense.

149. Defining the mission in great detail to the Supporting Artillery, the Battalion commander points to the Artillery commander the area on the terrain. He specifies the location of the Combat Security, its withdrawal routes, the forward edge of the defense area, companies' defense areas, grouping and tasks of machine guns, mortars, and attached to the Battalion artillery.

The Artillery mission consists of:

support of the Combat Security;

participation in the artillery barrage in front of the forward edge, and in the depth. Especial attention must be paid to the covering of areas which cannot be reached by machine gun and mortar fire;

repulsion of enemy tanks in case they broke through;

blinding of enemy observation posts;

concentration of fire in the enemy zones of concentration;

support of counterattacks.

150. Organizing the antitank defense, the Battalion commander must select and check gun positions of anti-tank guns and rifles in the depth of the defense center as well as at the forward edge. He must make certain that everything possible is done for destruction of the enemy tanks in front of his Infantry positions.

The gun positions are selected so that the guns and antitank rifles could, without being moved, cover the entire sector entrusted to them and avenues of tank approach with fire, especially flanking fire. Gun positions are reinforced by natural and artificial obstacles and antitank mines.

The Battalion defense center, or one of the companies' defense areas must be organized as an antitank defense center, or antitank company defense area if the terrain happens to be accessible to tanks.

151. Antitank rifles are disposed by the Battalion commander in such way that their fire, combined with the artillery fire, could cover the Battalion against tank attacks from directions accessible to tanks, particularly from flanks. For this purpose, he attaches antitank rifle units to commanders of Rifle companies, leaving not over one platoon in his reserve which is to be set forth wherever it may be necessary.

Several gun positions are specified for the antitank rifle units.

152. Organization of antitank obstacles throughout the defense area is one of the most important duties of the Battalion commander. Their presence is especially important round the defense center and main strong points of companies.

Assigning location of strong points and organizing the defense center, the Commander must take into consideration all the natural antitank obstacles.

Antitank obstacles must be within range of oblique fire of antitank guns and rifles and all types of Infantry weapons.

153. In order to mislead the enemy with regard to the line of the forward defense edge, the Battalion commander orders construction of false decoy positions, providing the time and equipment are favorable.

Location for decoy position must be selected so that the enemy fire directed against them could not damage units occupying the real positions.

154. Having arrived at his decision regarding fortification of the defense area, the Battalion commander outlines to the commanders of companies, attached and supporting units: the scale and sequence of engineer works and their deadlines; location of antitank obstacles and the construction methods; sequence of repair of roads within and in the rear of the defense area and methods of camouflage. Apart from that he distributes entrenching tools and barbed wire among the companies.

155. Organizing the anti-aircraft defense, the Battalion commander points out to the Machine gun company the way to cover the firing position area of the Machine gun and Mortar companies and his command post. To the commanders of Rifle companies he gives instruction regarding the detailing of units for hitting enemy descending aircraft and methods of camouflage.

156. Working out the fire plan the Battalion commander must foresee long range fire, boundaries and lines of the basic barrage fire, fire in the depth of the Battalion defense area and in front of adjacent units.

The fire must be organized in such a manner as to secure its concentration against the most important points.

The basic barrage fire must be prepared for a zone of from 300 to 400 meters in front of the forward edge and must be accessible for any point of the established zone at a clearly defined signal.

All the firing means of the Battalion and supporting artillery participate in the organization of the barrage fire.

157. The Battalion commander must clearly define the missions assigned to the Artillery and Mortars, to the Machine gun company, Rifle companies, and all the firing means of the Battalion.

158. Based on information he received, the Battalion commander works out the defense plan and imparts it to companies' commanders.

The Plan of Defense includes:

organization of combat security, reconnaissance, antitank and anti-aircraft and defense and defense against chemical attacks;

fire positions and the fire plan;

counterattack plan;

communication and observation;

digging of trenches, connecting passages, construction of artificial obstacles, command and observation posts;

equipment of alternate positions and construction of decoy positions;

action of the Battalion during operations conducted by reconnaissance groups and combat security groups in the time of enemy offensive and attack involving partial wedging of the enemy forces into the defense area and break through of the defense center;

Organization of the rear (the Battalion ammunition supply point, aid station, supply routes, and evacuation).

The Battalion commander must work out a defensive operations chart indicating the companies' defense areas, defense center, strong points, disposition of firing means, organization of fire, direction of counter-attacks.

The chart must be presented to the Regiment commander.

159. The command post of the Battalion commander as well as his alternate post must be selected so that it would command the entire defense area, and its foreground. It must be provided with reliable communication system with subordinate commanders, artillery and the Regiment commander. The command post must be located in an antitank fortified area. [redacted]

In case the field of view proves to be limited from the command post, the Battalion commander orders preparation of two to three additional observation posts where he installs his observers.

The Battalion commander must insure communication of his command post with companies, artillery, attached and supporting means. He must define groups req uiring telephone communication and those which need visual or messenger communication only.

160. While the enemy goes through the period of their artillery and aerial preparations and before they started the offensive, the Infantry and a part of the firing means must be concealed in slit trenches and shelters. Anti-aircraft defense means must be ready for repulsion of enemy aircraft. Observers maintain their positions and give signals for men to get to their posts and be ready for combat.

The artillery opens fire against advantageous targets. The Machine gun company and Mortars open fire from alternate positions.

The fire is increased as the enemy advance. It reaches the peak at the distance of 400 meters. At that time all the firing means and riflemen develop action. The artillery, machine gun, and mortar fire must be concentrated against the enemy guns, their machine guns, mortars, Infantry concentrations, reserves, command and observation posts.

161. The Battalion commander must follow attentively the military situation and take all possible measures in order to destroy the enemy by using all his firing means preventing the enemy forces from crossing the forward edge of the defense and not letting them to develop attack.

For this purpose he must suddenly concentrate mass fire on individual sectors of the enemy combat formation in order to inflict heavy losses and disrupt their offensive; assign new missions to units and artillery and, in case of necessity, regroup them.

162. During the advance of the enemy Infantry with tanks, the Battalion destroys the tanks before they reach the forward edge and cuts the Infantry from tanks. The enemy tanks which penetrated into the positions of the Battalion must be destroyed at any price by antitank guns and rifles, mortar fire, grenades, and all other means.

All the antitank means and artillery conduct their fire independently.

163. The enemy Infantry turning to the offensive and and tank-borne parties must be destroyed in front of the forward defense edge. All the firing means, including the machine guns emplaced for delivery of short-range surprise fire, and all the submachine guns must direct their fire against the enemy attacking Infantry.

The enemy approaching the Battalion positions must be met by annihilating fire, mass grenade throwing, and point blank firing.

164. Were the enemy to capture a part of the Battalion positions, all the firing means must be concentrated against them. Fire conducted from the depth and flanks must stop their further movement. The Battalion commander must take advantage of any enemy confusion or disorganization in order to attack them decisively and if possible launch a flank attack. Adjacent units must offer their fire assistance.

offer fire assistance to
The Battalion commander must assist/the adjacent units.

165. In order to develop counter-attack, the Battalion commander gives instruction to the Reserve commander with regard to the jump-off position, direction and scope of the attack, time for preparations, and time for the start. The firing means situated in the depth are used for a counter-attack.

The withdrawn forces and the forces disposed in the depth are used for reinforcement of the counter-attack.

166. Having repulsed the enemy attack, the Battalion commander must restore his position: install the firing means, repair the worst damages in trenches and obstacles, replenish ammunition and prepare for repulsion of new enemy attacks.

The positions of firing means which had become known to the enemy must be shifted.

167. In case of an unsuccessful counter-attack, the Battalion fortifies on the line it reached, or on previously prepared line, makes certain that the Regiment reserves be covered with fire and participates, together with them, in the next thrust.

168. On difficult terrain the Battalion may occupy for defense an area with the front of up to 5 kilometers disposing in individual company defense areas. The organization of each company area must assure mutual fire support, capture of important directions, and conduct of persistent and successful combat action even in case of a full encirclement. Depending on the length of the front and character of terrain, the mutual fire support can be realized by machine guns, mortars, or artillery.

Gaps between company areas are filled with submachine gun groups or Rifle men armed with machine guns. They are also filled by mines, fougasses, and engineer obstacles.

169. Combat security must be organized for every company defense area. Special attention must be paid for protection of flanks and gaps. Reconnaissance is conducted before the front line, on the flanks and in the gaps.

170. Artillery and mortars must be attached to the Battalion for insuring the defense area by fire. Artillery positions must be covered by Infantry. They must be placed in on tankproof terrain. Control over ~~Command~~/artillery and mortars must be decentralized.

Mortars must be attached to companies.

171. The Battalion commander must avoid even distribution of forces along the front. The larger part must be concentrated on the direction of main effort in order to defeat the enemy by fire and decisve counter-attacks.

172. In case the enemy attack one of the companies' areas, companies from other areas offer fire assistance and also act by a rapid blow onto the flanks and rear of the enemy.

173. In case of the break through of the Battalion defense area, the Battalion commander must retain the fortified point on the direction of main attack and repulse the enemy by counterattack conducted by his reserves and adjacent companies.

174. Wire communication, radio, lamp communication means, and dogs must be used for ~~constant~~ contact between the Battalion and the Regiment commander and within the Battalion.

175. Particular attention must be paid to organization of the rear: ample supply by ammunition and foodstuffs and water, and medical assistance. Special shelters must be prepaired for wounded in the dispositions of reserves of the Battalion.

2. Mobile Defense

176. Mobile defense consists in a number of battles conducted

on previously planned lines situated in such a manner that, were the enemy to capture one, they would have to shift their mortar fire positions and and organize anew their offensive action for capture of the next line. As a rule the selected line are tankproof and have concealed withdrawal routes. They must be fortified by artificial obstacles.

177. The Battalion, as a rule reinforced by Division and Regimental artillery, occupies a defense center on the line selected for it and disposes its forces and means in such a way as to be able to conduct fire before the front beginning from maximum ranges using most of its firing means, to reach gaps between itself and adjacent defense centers, to cover with fire withdrawal of advance companies from strong points situated in the depth, and previously withdrawn advance units.

All the firing means except the Division artillery are attached to companies.

178. The Battalion must make the enemy lose time on organization of offensive and overcoming obstacles under fire.

Artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire is opened from maximum distances. As the enemy approach, the advance companies enter all their firing means into the battle.

Without bringing the battle to the point of general enemy attack, the advance companies withdraw under cover of the Battalion reserve fire located in the depth and the fire of advance units which were priviously withdrawn into the depth and which occupy previously prepared positions. After that the Battalion reserves withdraw with the remaining elements. They must take the places reserved for them in the combat formation. The battle taking place on new positions must be a repetition of the preceding battle.

179. If the Regiment commander gives an order to this effect, the Battalion withdraws under the cover of small units using antitank weapons, resisting the enemy on the prepared obstacles, and xxxi filling the gaps made previously in the obstacles for withdrawal of forces.

180. While withdrawing, the Battalion crosses the line of deployment of other parts of the Regiment, particularly through their flanks, and proceeds to its next line where defense is organized immediately.

3. Defense of fortified areas and strongly fortified positions

181. When the Battalion occupies a strong point in a fortified area, the Battalion commander assumes the duties of the Area Commandant, the Company commander of the fortified area becomes Deputy Commander of the Battalion for control of garrisons of permanent fortifications. If the units arriving to the strong point do not reach in numbers and strength a Rifle battalion, the Company commander fulfills the duties of the Commandant of the xxxxxxxxx fortified area.

182. Along with his mission for capture of the strong point in the main battle positions, the Battalion commander must be given the defense plan which indicates:

forces attached to the Battalion, their means and grouping;

strong points, trenches, reinforced concrete pillboxes which must be occupied by units of the Battalion, and personnel of block removing parties;

camouflage measures and engineer works for improvement of fortifications.

Attached to the plan are schemes of the fire system,

antitank defense, and instruction regarding ~~the~~ strengthening of the fire system by Battalion means.

183. While the enemy approach the forward edge of defense, the supporting artillery and mortars destroy their infantry.

184. The entire artillery and all the mortars, those belonging to the Battalion as well as the attached ones, must be ~~prepared~~ ready for participation in counterpreparation carried out according to the plan worked out by the Commander of the Rifle Division.

185. If the camouflage of pillboxes is exposed by the enemy artillery fire, the Battalion commander, with permission of the Regiment commander gives instructions for concealment of dispositions of installations by smoke in order to handicap the direction of the enemy fire and prevent destruction of pillboxes.

186. From the beginning of artillery preparation action, the Battalion commander keeps track of destroyed and disabled pillboxes and other defensive installations. In case of disorganisation of fire, he brings machine guns and other firing means into trenches and restores the disrupted fire system.

The Battalion commander must immediately report to the Regiment commander about the destroyed and disabled pillboxes and measures taken for restoration of the fire system.

Before the beginning of storm the entire fire system must be restored at the expense of reserves of firing means.

187. Firing means charged to defend the Battalion against attacks from the air must be prepared to defeat any enemy aircraft.

188. In case of an enemy wedging into the forward edge of defense, the Battalion commander must:

[redacted]

isolate the attacked sectors by artillery, pillboxes', mortar, and machine gun fire from the depth and adjacent sectors, xxxx contrattack and capture or annihilate storm groups and Infantry of the enemy;

repulse tank attack by antitank artillery and pillbox fire. In case the enemy tanks penetrated into the depth of the defense, they must be destroyed on the next lines;

continue uninterrupted observation of the remaining pill-boxes at the forward edge and annihilate the enemy xxxxxxxx by concentrated fire of artillery, mortars, and machine guns from the depth and flanks as soon as they attempt to storm or block them,

189. In case the enemy are successful on a small sector of the front and manages to capture and block a part of installations, the Battalion commander must concentrate all efforts on securing a lasting resistance of still existing pillboxes and, supported by adjacent strong point, must annihilate the wedged enemy by fire or blow dealt by deblocking parties and tanks. After the enemy are destroyed, the Commander restores the position.

190. In case the enemy succeeded in breaking through the forward edge of fortified positions and wedge into adjacent sectors, the Battalion commander must concentrate the fire on the enemy, cut off the attacked sectors, and secure an advantageous line for the counterattack by the Regiment reserve and assist by conducting fire and counterattack.

191. Acting in encirclement the Battalion must prevent blocking and destruction of installations and strong points part by part by conducting massed pillbox, mortar, and machine gun fire and launching counter-attack

In order to intensify the fire directed against the enemy emerged in the Battalion rear, a part of firing means is taken out of installations for conduct of fire from open points or trenches.

Ж. Defensive operations at night

192. The Battalion commander must prepare night defensive operations during daylight. He must work out a plan of conduct of fire in conditions of artificial lighting or without it, adjust weapons for night use, bring up a part of machine guns from the depth to the forward edge, install the necessary signalization, change the location of listening posts and combat security, and the positions of firing means which were used in daytime.

193. Night fire can be advantageously organize from individual sectors which the enemy cannot avoid as they approach the Battalion positions.

Having indicated the ~~limits~~ ranges of barrage fire, the Battalion commander must give them numbers and establish corresponding signals for each line.

194. Reconnaissance and security operations must be increased at night. Observation must be conducted continuously with application of artificial lighting. Vigilance must be intensified especially just before dawn.

Especial attention must be paid to observation and protection of gaps and limiting points.

The reserve must be drawn nearer to the forward edge.

195. Night fire is open only in case of the presence of enemy on the direction or line against which fire was prepared. Artillery opens fire only by order of the Battalion commander transmitted by the signal established by the Regiment commander.

196. Success of defensive operations conducted at night depends greatly on sang froid and firmness of commanders, stability of units, discipline of men, preparations of fire during daylight, and sudden and decisive counter-attacks even if they were launched by small forces.

Counter-attacks must be directed onto the flank and rear by units well acquainted with the terrain and taking advantage of darkness. If the enemy broke through, they must be captured or destroyed before they manage to fortify themselves and draw up their firing means.

In case construction of protective works are in progress, the Battalion commander organizes security of working groups and establishes for them assembly points for the emergency of sudden offensive by the enemy.

198. Having discovered timely the beginning of the enemy offensive, security and reconnaissance groups report immediately to the Battalion commander and withdraw to the indicated point so that they would not be on the way of fire.

199. Following the defense plan, the Battalion commander concentrates fire against the advancing enemy. Fire must be previously prepared on certain lines and particularly obstacles. I the enemy attempted to attack, they must be fired at point blank, hit by hand grenades and then captured or annihilated in a bayonet fight thrust.

200. Having repulsed an enemy attack, the Battalion pursues them with fire and rapidly restores its position, sends forth combat security and reconnaissance groups, repairs the damaged obstacles and prepares for repulsion of new attacks.

At the dawn the Battalion, following an order (signal) given by the Battalion commander, goes over, unnoticed by the enemy, to daylight dispositions. The machine gun company shifts to daylight disposition by platoons. The antitank guns are the first to occupy their daylight positions.

5. Defense of Inhabited Locality

Strictly limited numbers of forces and means must be assigned for defense of an inhabited locality.

It is not the quantity, but quality of troops, well organized fire system and elaborate control that secure rigidity of the defense of inhabited locality.

Defending an inhabited locality, the Battalion must hold it stubbornly and never abandon it without specific order given by the Commander.

202. It can happen that the Battalion is charged to defend a small inhabited locality or a part of a town. The forward edge is established somewhat in front of the suburb or else in the depth. Gardens, kitchen-gardens, empty lots are occupied for defense. Individual solid buildings, especially those situated on cross-roads and squares are adjusted and fortified. Machine guns and individual guns must be placed in low positions like breaks in walls or basement windows.

Individual guns are disposed for direct laying.

Mortars and hand grenades play an important part in this type of operation.

203. Barricades and trenches must be arranged in the streets and reinforced by antitank and antipersonnel obstacles for durability of the defense and coverage of the Battalion flanks. Houses adjoining barricades must be fortified [redacted] ion measures taken.

204. Defense of inhabited localities is based on Battalion's coordination with units acting out of the locality. It consists of:

a number of strong points adjusted for defensive action on all sides. These strong points are connected by cross fire and are covered by obstacles;

a strong reserve.

205. The garrison of a strong point consists usually of a reinforced platoon equipped with large quantities of ammunition and foodstuffs.

One or several solid buildings linked by engineer reinforcements compose a strong point of the Battalion.

Basements and cellars are used for protection against artillery fire. Defense of a garrison must be very stubborn.

Concealed routes of communication must be constructed in breaks in the walls. These routes must be protected.

206. The Battalion commander's post must be in the main strong point. He must have additional observation posts in the main strong points of companies.

In case the main strong point is blocked by the enemy and the Battalion commander is trapped in it, his deputy or the Senior company commander takes over the command of units acting out of the blockade circle of the Battalion.

207. The enemy disunited in the streets of inhabited locality must be destroyed part by part in decisive counterattacks carried out by the Battalion. The Battalion and all its units must defend every building, every block of houses.

While a building is being defended, the enemy must be prevented from getting hold of the roof.

6. Defense of forest areas.

208. Defending a forest area, the Battalion may be holding a line in front of the forest edge or in the depth of the forest.

In both cases the defense area must be sufficiently deep in order to force the enemy to fight inside the forest.

Small thickets are occupied by individual fire points.

209. Defense of forest area must consist of all-around defense of its sectors composing the defense center and strong points in a widely developed system of obstacles and decisive counterattacks.

210. Organizing defense of a forest, the Battalion commander must include into one Company defense area every projecting corner of the forest and every way out of it. Clearings must be made within large outward projections. They must be protected by fire and obstacles so that they would retain the penetration of the enemy into the depth of defense.

The forest must be cleared for easier conduct of fire but must not be disturbed the camouflage.

Antitank and machine gun blockhouses must be erected on crossroads and observation posts, on trees.

A well organized mortar fire is exceedingly important in a forest area.

211. Artillery and mortar fire must be applied to remote and close approaches to the forward edge and depth of the forest.

Individual guns and mortars are attached to companies for flanking the forward edge and clearings and also for the immediate support of the Infantry in the depth of the forest.

[redacted]

212. The Battalion defense area is protected against a sudden enemy attack or their penetration into the depth by blocks, wire entanglements wound round trees at the edge of the forest and on the clearings, on roads and in the depth of the forest, by fougasses, snipers installed on trees, and ambushes.

All the roads and clearings must be protected by machine gun and submachine gun fire which must be conducted mostly as enfilade fire.

213. Selecting a defense position in the depth of the forest, the Battalion commander must see that its forward edge should run as a broken line as it offers better conditions for cross fire.

214. The trench profile must be complete. It is necessary to organize defense against chemical attacks and take fire prevention measures, especially during dry summer.

The rear must be concealed on the main road under coverage of [redacted] units occupying blockhouses.

215. The combat security groups must be able to hold the enemy. They must establish the direction of the enemy offensive.

As a rule the defense and security must be of all-around type. Depending on the character of the forest, combat security groups organize ambushes or execute sudden fire assaults.

Reconnaissance groups charged to establish contact with the enemy are sent forward and to the flanks.

216. The reserve must be disposed on crossroads and clearings. It must be placed near the most dangerous directions and its sector must be developed into a strong point with all-around defense.

217. Due to limited visibility the battle takes place at close range. Suddenness, speed, and expert handling of bayonets [redacted]

and hand grenades are exceedingly important in couterattacks.

7. Defense of river

218. Defending a river the Battalion commander must conduct fire from the bank he holds in such a manner that the entire river on the Battalion defense area and the opposite bank be under oblique and flanking fire.

Concentrated artillery and mortar fire must be prepared for areas of probable concentration of enemy forces and crossing means as well as approaches to crossings and along the river.

Fire must be organized for the Battalion's bank in order to repulse the enemy in case they crossed the river.

No firing means should be disclosed untio the enemy started to force the river. Individual machine gun, mortar, rifle and submachine gun groups are detailed to fight the small enemy units crossing the river.

219. All the local crossing means (boats, rafts, ferry boats) must be assembled on the Battalion's bank and must be guarded. In case of impossibility to assemble them, they must be destroyed.

220. If a small river flows through a wide valley, the forward edge of the defense must be moved back onto advantageous position, while a reinforced combat security is set forward.

In this case the depth of the defense must be reduced. The reserve is placed nearer to the forward edge, at the distance permitting a rapid and concealed approach to any point of crossing, in order to develop counterattack and throw into the river the enemy who had just crossed it.

221. Reconnaissance groups are sent to the enemy bank and ambushes organized at night by order of the Battalion commander.

222. Under water obstacles, and antitank obstacles, and

fougasses are installed on every ford. Fougasses are laid wherever there are easy ways out of the water. Floating obstalces are placed on the water.

223. Enemy forces which succeeded in crossing the river must be thrown back into the river by decisive counter-attacks before they manege to prepare for defense.

224. Defending a bridgehead previously to developing of the offensive, the Battalion must cover the crossing for the period of time specified by the Regiment (or Division) Commander. The least possible gap between the forward edge of defense and the bridgehead must protect the crossing from machine gun and mortar fire as well as artillery reconnaissance of the enemy. The flanks of the Battalion defense should reach the river and thus insure the Battalion against outflanking movements. The flanks must be covered by artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire from the opposite bank (by order of the Regiment commander).

8. Defense in Winter Conditions

225. In winter the Battalion usually occupies an inhabited locality. It captures all roads leading from the enemy side and organizes observation on side roads. Reconnaissance groups use skis.

The defense area must be selected in such a way as to deprive the enemy of possibilities to use inhabited localities or concealed points before offensive.

All the shelters which the enemy may find useful must be destroyed or held under mortar and artillery fire. In the conditions of a stable front/ the defense in winter is organized the same way as/at any other time.

226. Combat security [redacted] set forth to all possible

[redacted]

routes the enemy may want to use for offensive operations. At the time when no observation is done by combat security groups, patrols must take their place.

Intensified reconnaissance action is conducted on the flanks in front of the combat security, and in the rear of the Battalion.

227. Decoy installations are acquiring great importance due to the fact that they are easy to erect and to the difficulty to camouflage the real trenches and shelters. Decoy installations are equipped with traps and mines.

228 Ice-covered embankments of snow and fougasses are installed on avenues of possible tank approach.

Positions are strengthened by parapets, and trenches of solidified or ice-covered snow and anti-infantry obstacles. All the obstacles are camouflaged by snow.

229. The Battalion must be equipped with skis for going over to offensive or developing counter-attacks onto the enemy flanks.

230. When the defensive positions are ready, they are occupied by observers and units on duty, while other troops stay in the inhabited locality in heated huts, sheds, and shelters in the vicinity of trenches. Observers must be frequently replaced.

All measures must be taken against frostbite.

Particular attention must be paid to camouflage of defense installations and routes leading to command posts and positions.

In case time does not permit construction of engineer installations, snow trenches must be constructed with breastwork of from 4 to 5 meters in thickness.

Sleds and skis are to [redacted] lication purposes.

As targets emerge, artillery and mortars must cover roads with deliberate fire.

The advancing enemy must be met by long range fire of the Battalion.

231. Observation must be intensified at night, during snowstorm and snowfall. Additional patrols must be sent out, units on duty and firing means kept in full readiness for combat.

9. Defensive operations in the Mountains

232. Organizing defense in the mountains, the Battalion commander must;

establish the forward edge somewhat below the topographic range of summits toward the enemy in order to secure better field of view and fire and fewer dead spaces and fewer approaches inaccessible to fire. A part of forces must be disposed on back slopes;

organize tiers of fire and plunging fire;

coordinate the frontal and with flanking and oblique fire for approaches and dead spaces;

bar all the approaches to passes and to heights surrounding them from the flanks and rear by dense fire and obstacles;

organize short range flanking fire along roads, paths, and gorges.

233. Combat security groups must be sent out to the heights situated in front of the forward edge of defense. They must be reinforced by artillery and mortars;

Passes, roads, mountain paths, or gorges must not serve as boundaries between company areas.

[redacted]

234. Any enveloping or by-passing movements undertaken by the enemy must be timely discovered by the Battalion commander through the system of observation, reconnaissance, and information received from adjacent units.

235. Strong points on heights adjoining the valley, which is defended by the Battalion, must be echeloned so that the valley could be kept under cross fire. Combat security groups and strong obstacles must be disposed in the valley.

236. Antitank guns and rifles must be disposed in such a way that they could hit tanks breaking into the valleys and at the time when they overcome obstacles and ascents.

237. The reserve must be placed on junctions of roads. Counterattacks must be directed from above, along ranges and valleys.

Preparations for counterattacks include reconnaissance and removal of obstacles.

Antitank obstacles must be borne in mind as blasting or caving of roads are prepared. Construction of roads and ~~routes~~ cross-country routes of march in the rear is very important.

238. The ammunition supply point must be located in the Reserve area. It must have at its disposal large rations of ammunition and water. The aid station must be placed near source of water but never exceeding half hour walk from the forward edge of the Battalion.

10. Relief of Battalion

239. As a rule the Battalion is relieved at night.

The relieving Battalion commander, together with the commanders of companies and reinforcements arrives into the defense area before darkness. He must have from 2 to 3 hours of daylight in order to

study the area.

The relieving Battalion commander must study all the approaches to defensive positions, plan of defense, dispositions of companies, location of mined sectors and passages through them. He receives, from the Commander who is being relieved, a map of mines, obstacles, enemy positions and together with the Commander to be relieved establishes the order of relief.

At the specified hour the relief takes places following the order described for relief of companies. The Battalion is brought onto the positions which it occupies by companies. Control of mines and obstacles is executed with the assistance of guides detailed from companies which are being relieved.

240. In case the enemy goes over to the offensive during the relief of Battalion, the units of the new Battalion place themselves under the command of the Battalion to be relieved. The Commander of the Battalion which was to be relieved directs combat in repulsing the advancing enemy.

Relief of the Battalion must be resumed after the enemy offensive was repulsed.

Chapter 5

Withdrawal from Action of Rifle Battalion

241. Withdrawal of a Battalion from action can be done only if an order to this effect comes from its Regiment commander.

Withdrawal from action must be always executed according to a plan.

Night is the best time for withdrawal from action because it enables to get disengaged from the enemy unnoticeably. If this operation has to be done in daylight it will have the best possibi-

ties in a closed area.

342. Working out a plan for withdrawal from action, the Battalion commander must:

indicate routes of withdrawal and assembly points for each company, attached, and supporting units;

define the strength and personnel of coverage and lines on which they must hold the attacking enemy;

work out: measures for holding the advancing enemy (demolition of bridges, roads, erection of obstacles); measures of defense against chemical attacks; order of withdrawal; instructions regarding communications and the rear.

The beginning of withdrawal must be reported to the Senior Commander and timely imparted to adjacent units.

343. Disengagement of advance companies in daytime is executed under coverage of strong artillery, machine gun and mortar fire holding enemy at long and midrange. Use of flanking machine guns is especially advantageous in these codditions. The Battalion commander must strive to take out companies from the enemy fire. This is done under coverage of the reserve and specially assigned units detailed from companies. The latter must try to retain their defense areas. Sometimes disengagement from the enemy can be carried out after a partial short counterattack.

Artillery withdraws in leapfrog movement by platoons. Fire support must never stop for a minute.

Machine gun and mortar companies withdraw in leapfrog movement keepingthe enemy under constant fire.

Attached engineer troops install antipersonnel and antitank mines on the lihes indicated by the Battalion commander.